

County Court of Union County
La Grande, Oregon 97850

From the office of
EARLE C. MISENER, COUNTY JUDGE

HAROLD SCHWEBKE, COMMISSIONER
JOE GARLITZ, COMMISSIONER

Kathy Perkins, Director
Elgin Community Center
P.O.Box 128
Elgin, Oregon 97827

Dear Kathy:

I found the figures you presented in your January 15, letter on the number of people using the Elgin Community Center very interesting. The Center is filling a very important roll and providing a valuable service to the people of the area.

Your comments regarding the decline of County Public Health Service at the Center can not be disputed. The County has the same financial restrain as does the City of Elgin. We have found that we can service more people at the same cost by certailing our Health Service. You might be interested to know that the Public Health budget this year is \$121,985. Of that amount \$56,057 comes from local tax money. That equals 42¢ per person. To answer your question of what the peoples tax monies are being spent for by the counties. Some back information is in order.

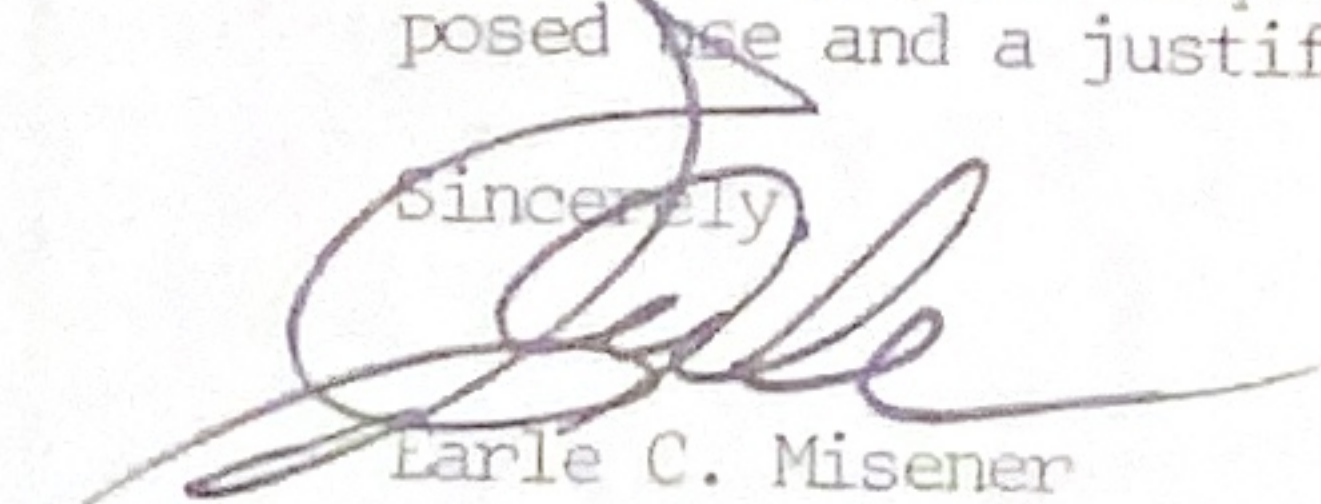
The two basic functions of County government are 1) to asses property and collect taxes for all tax bodies within the county. 2) Provide law enforcement, this includes the Court system. It cost \$1,150,268 to perform those two functions this year. The County will collect just under on million dollars in property tax this year. The difference is made up in state and federal revenue.

I would also like to point out to you that for the past several years, that no local property tax monies have gone to the County Road Fund.

The worksharing agreement with the City of La Grande that you mention is just that, a work-sharing agreement no financial support for their program. The agreement is that the City's park crew will pick up garbage at the County's two parks. It is a simple contract for services.

I will forward your request for funding to the County's Budget Committee. They will be meeting sometime in April or May. May I suggest that you submit in writting your request funds, outlining the amount of money requested, proposed use and a justification for County funding.

Sincerely,



Earle C. Misener

ECM/jp
cc. Ron Scobes

February 2, 1979